

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~messaging~~ method comprising:
answering a call from a calling party in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format at a premises of a called party;
saving at least a portion of a message as an electronic audio file, wherein the message is received from the calling party via the call;
identifying an electronic mail ~~email~~ address associated with the calling party by comparing caller identification (ID) information received to a contact list, wherein the caller ID information is received with the call;
preparing an outgoing electronic mail ~~email~~ message in response to recognizing that the message has been received, wherein the outgoing electronic mail ~~email~~ message includes the electronic mail ~~email~~ address associated with the calling party;
attaching the electronic audio file to the outgoing electronic mail ~~email~~ message, wherein the outgoing electronic mail message has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format;
addressing the outgoing electronic mail ~~email~~ message to a network node associated with a unified messaging mailbox of the called party; and
initiating sending of the outgoing electronic mail ~~email~~ message and the attached electronic audio file from the premises to the network node.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
disconnecting from the call;
prompting a modem to dial a telephone number associated with an Internet Service
Provider;
recognizing that a connection exists with the Internet Service Provider; and
outputting information representing the outgoing email message for delivery via the
connection.

3-7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that a data connection exists; and
utilizing the data connection to send the outgoing email message.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the outgoing electronic mail
~~email~~ message comprises a multi-modal message having an audio component and a non-audio
component.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a format of the electronic
audio file is one of a Waveform (.WAV) format, a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG)
Audio Layer 3 (MP3) format, a Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) format, and an
Audio Units (.AU) format ~~further comprising converting the electronic audio file into a~~
~~unneeded-text format.~~

11.-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating unified messaging, the method comprising:

communicatively coupling a messaging device to a premises network that is communicatively coupled to a wide-area communication network, the wide-area communication network comprising an Internet Protocol network; and

employing the messaging device to:

answer an incoming telephone call from a calling party;

play a pre-recorded message that prompts the calling party to leave a message;

record a voice message from the calling party;

compare caller identification (ID) information received with the incoming telephone call to a contact list to identify an email address associated with the calling party;

compose an electronic mail message in response to the voice message, wherein the electronic mail message includes the email address associated with the calling party, and wherein the electronic mail message has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format;

attach an ~~electronic~~ audio file representing the voice message to the electronic mail message; and

initiate sending of the electronic mail message via the wide-area communication network.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising executing code directing a computer to store a username and a password in a memory associated with the messaging device, to indicate a messaging address for an intended recipient of the electronic mail message, and to indicate an identifier of a remote messaging server communicatively coupled to the wide-area communication network.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

determining that a data connection exists interconnecting the premises network and a node of the wide-area communication network; and

utilizing the data connection to send the electronic mail message.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
disconnecting from the incoming telephone call;
prompting a modem to dial a telephone number associated with an Internet Service Provider;
recognizing that a connection exists with the Internet Service Provider; and
utilizing the connection to send the electronic mail message.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a format of the audio file is one has a format selected from the group consisting of a Waveform (.WAV) format file, a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) Audio Layer 3 MPEG-1 (MP3) format file, a Musical Instrument Digital Interface (.MIDI) format file, and [[a]] an Audio Units (.AU) format file.

26-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:
answer an incoming telephone call from a calling party via an Internet Protocol network;
play a pre-recorded message that prompts the calling party to leave an audio portion of a message and that prompts the calling party to include non-audio data with the message;
record a voice message from the calling party;
obtain an email address associated with the calling party by comparing caller identification (ID) information to a contact list, wherein the caller ID information is received with the incoming telephone call;
compose an outgoing electronic mail message in response to the voice message, wherein the outgoing electronic mail message includes the email address associated with the calling party, and wherein the outgoing email message has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format;
attach an audio file representing the voice message to the outgoing electronic mail message; and
initiate sending of the outgoing electronic mail message.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the a format of the audio file is one of a Waveform (.WAV) format, a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) Audio Layer 3 (MP3) format, a Musical Instrument Digital Interface (.MIDI) format, and an Audio Units (.AU) format ~~audio file is encoded in a uencoded-text format.~~

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) A messaging system, comprising:

a network interface responsive to an Internet Protocol network to receive a call;
a call answering mechanism to:

answer the call;

prompt a calling party to leave an audio portion of a message; and

prompt the calling party to leave a non-audio portion of the message; and

a messaging engine to:

obtain an email address associated with the calling party by comparing caller identification (ID) information to a contact list, wherein the caller ID information is received with the call;

compose an outgoing electronic mail message that includes including the audio portion of the message, the non-audio portion of the message, and the email address associated with the calling party, wherein the outgoing email message has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format; and
transmit the outgoing electronic mail message to a remote messaging server.

33. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the non-audio portion comprises a text message.

34. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the non-audio portion comprises a visual message, wherein the visual message is not a textual message.

35-36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~messaging~~ method of claim 1, further comprising preparing a reply email message, wherein an outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated with the email address associated with the calling party.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~messaging~~ method of claim 37, wherein the reply email message is prepared in response to receipt of the outgoing email message by a user.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~messaging~~ method of claim 37, wherein the outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated in response to a user-generated reply request.

40. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 9, wherein the non-audio component includes a visual message, wherein the visual message is not a textual message.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of facilitating unified messaging of claim 21, further comprising preparing a reply email message, wherein an outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated with the email address associated with the calling party.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, further storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to prepare a reply email message, wherein an outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated with the email address associated with the calling party.

43. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the messaging engine is further to prepare a reply email message, wherein an outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated with the email address associated with the calling party.